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PRESS RELEASE

New gas connections in El Alto to benefit 20,000 people

U.S. Government, YPFB, and FEJUVE cooperate in the effort

20,000 people, including neighbors, teachers, and students from public schools of District 3 in the city of El Alto will benefit from new natural gas connections, to be inaugurated Wednesday, October 26. Likewise, eight public schools, five educational centers, and one healthcare center will benefit from similar connections. This is the result of a joint effort by the U.S. Government, the State-run Bolivian oil company YPFB, the El Alto neighborhood associations, students, and teachers, who pledged and dedicated themselves to improve the quality of life and the progress of the Bolivian people.

The inauguration ceremony will take place on Wednesday at 10:00am, at the Unidad Educativa 7 de Septiembre, District 3, and will include the participation of U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia David Greenlee, USAID's Director in Bolivia Michael Yates, the President of YPFB, the Mayor of El Alto and the President of the Federation of Neighborhood Associations (FEJUVE).

Through its Office of Transition Initiatives, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is supporting this initiative of the Government of Bolivia seeking to satisfy the demand for natural gas in El Alto. This effort involves cooperation and coordination with FEJUVE, which is in charge of organizing the digging teams, and with YPFB, which provides pipelines and technical supervision. USAID contributed \$us 144,000 to provide regulating valves in order to complete the secondary network and the installation of connections for the institutions located in the districts that were pre-selected by FEJUVE. The Mayor's Office of El Alto has agreed to work with the community of District 3 in order to provide maintenance to the new infrastructure and ensure that the gas-heated stoves and showers work appropriately.

USAID is already working with FEJUVE and YPFB in the installation of other valves and gas connections in Districts 2 and 6 in El Alto, which are expected to be completed in November and January, respectively. Similar projects for Districts 4 and 5 are to begin next year.

In addition to this project, USAID's OTI also works in 166 other projects in El Alto. Nationwide, USAID supports programs promoting health, economic opportunities, the environment, democracy and food-for-work. Such programs include, among others, improving healthcare services for low-income populations; supporting artisans to improve their production and export opportunities; helping micro enterprises gain access to the finance system; creating six Integrated Justice Centers in El Alto in order to ensure justice for all; and supporting community-based infrastructure initiatives in local communities, which have created more than 16,000 temporary jobs.



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USAID is the U.S. Government Agency for International Development. Its cooperation programs in Bolivia seek to improve the effectiveness, responsiveness, and transparency of Bolivian democracy; provide greater economic opportunities to poor populations through technical assistance, trade promotion and marketing; develop better healthcare practices and services; improve the sustained use of natural resources; and promoting comprehensive alternative development in the tropics of Cochabamba and the Yungas region in La Paz.

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